

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.
The documentary they
are trying to force
their stations to
show, they are
labelling as "news"
but it is NOT news,
it is biased
propaganda meant to
influence the
national
presidential
election. They
offered to allow
Kerry to sit on an
after-movie
discussion panel
where he would go up
against a number of
pundits for the
Republican party.
This is not by any
stretch of the
imagination to be
considered as "equal
time." If they were
to offer to air
"Going Upriver" or
"Fahrenheit 911"
immediately after
showing their
"documentary" then
that MIGHT be
considered "equal
time" -- they have
not offered to do
so. It has also been
alleged that the
group that has
produced this
documentary has
aligned itself with
"Swiftboat Veterans
for Truth" -- an
organization that
has been widely
discredited as using
a smear campaign to

disseminate
slanderous
allegations which
are blatantly
untrue.

Sinclair uses OUR
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies and
conglomerates
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we,
the people, need for
our democracy.
Instead of something
produced at "News
Central" far away
and presenting
propaganda as
"news," it's more
important that we
see real people from
our own communities
and more substantive
news from actual
journalists about
the issues that
matter.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
enforce FCC
regulations and
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.